THE GENESEE FARMER.

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THE FARMER.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 1833.

ON THE EXTIRPATION OF WEEDS.

NO. I.

"*The good farmer suffers nothing to grow but his crops.*"

I would not exclude from the class of GOOD FARMERS, all who come not up to this standard. The gardener who occupies a small piece of ground, renting for ten times as much as some other lot of the same size, can afford to apply to the former, ten times as much labor in its cultivation, and would lose ten times as much by the growth of a weed. He ought to aim directly at this mark; and distinctly remember the old saying: "One year of seeding, makes seven of weeding." But in this country, the *high price*,—and more especially the *scarcity*,—of labor, as well as the *low rent* of land, will often justify the farmer when he varies from that course. He may adopt another maxim, hard to gainsay: "The good farmer raises the most at the least expense."

It is not my intention by this remark, however, to encourage slovenly farming; and while I admit that some weeds, such as the annual grasses, may not damage a crop to the amount it would cost to destroy them, and particularly when they will scarcely affect the succeeding crop,—I must insist there are other weeds that ought to have no quarter or indulgence; and if the farmer has not time to destroy them himself, or to spare one of his laborers for this purpose, he ought to hire an extra hand till they are completely subdued.

The propriety of this measure will be evident from the following considerations: Nearly all our worst weeds are *exotics*, having been *introduced* in various ways from other countries, and chiefly from Europe. It is therefore certain that when they first appeared in this land, the number must have been very small; and had there been any proper care extended, a boy in a few hours, would probably have destroyed the whole importation. The business, like an incipient breach in a dike, however, was neglected; and the whole country has been inundated. The breach ought now to be repaired at any moderate expense.

Many readers of this journal, are well acquainted with the manner of converting a tract of heavy timbered land into fields and meadows; and may remember the perfect exemption from nearly all the noxious weeds that infest the older farms They will hardly forget,—if they have seen some of the first openings made in a new settlement,—that even spear-grass and white clover were not there till the seed was introduced either by the farmer, or by the live stock that inhabited or visited his new territory. The mullein, the thistle, and the burdock were all equally unknown.

It must then be very plain that a little care from time to time, would have prevented those weeds from infesting the fields; and there is *yet* many a bad one that with the same portion of care, may be prevented from establishing itself on the oldest farms. Watchfulness against such intruders, is incumbent on every farmer who means to enjoy the produce of his own grounds. D. T.

Greatfield, 8 *mo.* 8, 1833.

BOTANICAL CLASSES.

As many of our readers and some of our correspondents are much interested in the science of Botany, they will be pleased to learn (we doubt not,) that this branch is successfully pursued in the higher schools of our village. At the quarterly examination of the Rochester Seminary last week, we were highly gratified with the pleasing progress, which the Botanic class has made. Their answers in the grammar were characterised by promptness and accuracy; the analysis of fresh specimens was highly interesting; and a great variety of Genera and Species were correctly named, by the pupils, as the dried specimens were exhibited by the teachers. Several Herbariums, with numerous labelled specimens, were passed around to be examined by the spectators. What we regarded as the finest exhibition in this department, was a large Botanical Chart, five or six feet square, completely covered with dried specimens, accurately labelled and tastefully arranged, comprising the richest gifts that Flora has scattered in our vicinity. This class was composed of both males and females. The other exercises were such as did credit alike to the instructors and pupils.

We also attended the examination in the Female Seminary, taught by the Misses Black and Seward and their assistants; and were richly entertained while the *fair* pupils exhibited a familiar acquaintance with the technics of the science, and much facility in analizing numerous specimens of fresh flowers. We are happy to add that equal progress was evinced in the other numerous branches, which are taught in this highly interesting school.

NOTIONS OF THE OLDEN TIME.

We do not give the name of the author of the following paragraph because he has withheld it himself. It may be enough to say that it is copied from a satirical romance, lately published; but as very little of the broad humor which generally characterizes the work, appears in our extract, we present it as a fair specimen of the *notions* of olden time:

"There were a great many exceedingly curious and venerable customs, maxims, and notions, relating to worldly prudence, which were as strictly regarded by the family as the ten commandments. One of these was never to commence any business of importance on a Friday, as being an unlucky day; though I do not find that they ever abstained from eating on that day for fear of being choked. Another was an invariable rule of dining upon codfish and potatoes every Saturday, sick or well, guests or no guests. A third was never to kill their hogs without first consulting the almanac to find out the state of the moon and of the tide; for the new of the moon and the rising of the tide, at the time the animal was slaughtered, were certain to make the pork swell in the pot; while, on the other hand, the waning of the moon and the ebbing of the tide would make it shrink to half its size in boiling. Another of their notions, was that turneps, onions, and all manner of bulbous roots, would be utterly destitute of bottoms, if not sown in the old of the moon; and that beans, peas, and all such articles as gave their fruit above ground, would be equally destitute of tops, unless they were planted in the new of the moon"

BEARDS, AND STRAPS, AND RAZORS.

None will deny the comfort of a smooth face, except those who have tried to procure it with a dull razor. To attempt this, is to get into a *scrape* truly; and to such rueful exhibitions of countenance we ascribe the dark beards that we occasionally meet, ten days or a fortnight long.

Of him we shall say but little, who visits the grog-shop, and whose most diligent search for six cents would be a failure, as he passes a barber's pole. Let him wear as long a beard as he pleases,—and the longer the better, to serve as a beacon to the rising generation; but let not substantial farmers walk in the same livery. We know that very few of our readers need such advice; but could we but shorten only one beard, our counsel should be joyfully given. Why do some dread shaving more than others? Thick hard beards and dull razors may answer. For who would not put off trouble as long as he could? They do put it off from day to day till dense coverings, black as thunder clouds, gradually envelop their faces.

Shaving, with them, is therefore not *the order of the day*; and possibly, musing on the long beards of the days of old, they may lament that they have fallen on evil times. To such we would extend a word of encouragement. However strange and remarkable to them it may appear, it is not the less true and certain,—excepting all pimpled faces,—that *shaving with a good razor in fine order is a pleasurable sensation.*

We must make another suggestion though it pass for a novelty. No matter—it is time it was told. *Many a woman has loved a slovenly husband, but never quite so well as if he had not been a sloven.*

We have now finished our preface, and in one moment will arrive at the main thread of our story: *Emerson's elastic strap is the best that we ever used*; and if you, Messrs. Blackbeards, will apply good razors judiciously and alternately to this strap and to your faces, as often as twice in the week, your wives will conclude you grow handsomer.

☞On our last page will be found a winter's descriptive sketch of the Garden of our friend A. W. of Lansingburgh, some account of which was given in the Genesee Farmer, vol. 2, page 301, to which the reader is referred—and also a little pleasant play of fancy on the same subject from the pen of a lady.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

Growing different crops in succession, is a practice which every farmer or cultivator knows from experience to be highly advantageous; though its beneficial influence has not yet been sufficiently explained by chimists. It is an undoubted fact, that the food which nourishes one plant may not have the same effect on a different species; the nutriment may be in the soil, yet a crop may be sown or planted which will not derive the benefits that the soil possesses, consequently the necessity of a *rotation* of crops. Virgin or uncultivated soil, may for a succession of years, yield good crops of *wheat* or *corn*, &c., but would not that land have been more productive, had a regular system of rotation been adopted? Sir Humphrey Davy gives the rationale of rotation in the following terms: "It is a great advantage in the convertible system of cultivation, that the whole of the manure is employed, and that those parts of it which are not fitted for one crop remain as a nourishment for another. Thus, if the turnep is the first in the order of succession, this crop manured with recent dung, immediately finds sufficient soluble matter for its nourishment; and the heat produced in fermentation assists the germination of the seed and the growth of the plant. If after turneps, barley with grass seed is sown, then the land, having been little exhausted by the turnep crop, affords the soluble parts of the decomposing manure to the grain." Various grasses derive only a small portion of their organised matter from the soil. This alone must be sufficient proof of the advantage derived from a regular systematic plan being adopted on every farm. Grasses by their large systems of leaves, absorb a considerable quantity of nourishment from the atmosphere, without in any material degree exhausting the soil; and moreover, when they are ploughed in, their roots and leaves afford a considerable portion of manure or food for the succeeding crop. We have taken the article of grasses to elucidate our opinion on the subject of *rotation of crops*, considering that grass would more explicitly explain and demonstrate the efficacy of the system. Various crops pulverise the soil, and to a great extent prepare it for different crops. *Peas* for instance are peculiarly calculated for preparing the ground for *wheat*. Potatoes will luxurate in a soil exhausted by, and incapable of, producing a crop of wheat. Plants, although different in their general composition, are very analagous, but the specific difference in the produce of many of them, prove that they must derive different materials from the soil. Soils are a compound of ingredients, the constituent parts of which are only soluble to such species of the plants, as are adapted by their formation, to receive the nutritive matter peculiarly adapted for that individual species. That portion of matter may be entirely exhausted for one crop, still the soil may be perfectly capable of producing another crop in great perfection, and therefore the necessity of a *rotation of crops*.

☞ "*Plough Jogger*" will perceive that his communication, in passing over the "editorial anvil," has been somewhat "hammered," but whether improved will be for him to decide. While we have not altered the argument, or omitted any thing which could add to its force, we have endeavored to make such emendations as we thought would best promote that good feeling which ought to exist in the discussion of all disputed questions.

"PULVERIZING OF BIRDS."

On looking into Browne's Naturalist, volume 2, page 207, I was struck with the oddity of this caption, and expected nothing short of grinding them into powder. I was deceived however, though I have still great doubts of the propriety of the term. As it is a short paragraph, I send it entire:

"Among the singularity of manners, perhaps there is none more extraordinary than that which seems peculiar to a few species; by some called *pulverizing*, which is that of dusting themselves; it is observable only in the gallinaceous tribe, the sky lark, wood lark, and house sparrow. These are frequently seen in hot weather to roll themselves in the dust, and by means of their wings and legs, throw it all over their bodies. For what purpose it is intended, is difficult to ascertain. Some have imagined it is to destroy *pediculi* with which these birds abound; but as all other birds are troubled with lice, and do not pulverize, the opinion does not seem to be well founded. Others have supposed that it is to cool themselves, and that such birds do not wash; but in this also they are mistaken, for no bird *bathes more* frequently than the sparrow."

The sky lark, the wood lark, and the house sparrow, are English birds, and probably the paragraph is English too, which may account for the following omissions. The Bay-winged Bunting, numerous in the western parts of this state, and a great frequenter of the road, may be seen almost in any summer's day in dry weather, dusting itself "breast high in sand." Not only it, but the Brown Thrush, and the Cat Bird also belong to the catalogue of *pulverizers*—(of dry earth.)

TO MAKE TOMATO KETCHUP.

Gather a peck of tomatoes, pick out the stems, and wash them; put them over the fire in a vessel *not of iron*, and *without water*; sprinkle on a few spoonfuls of salt; let them boil steadily an hour, stirring them frequently; strain them through a colander, and then through a sieve; put the liquid on the fire with half a pint of chopped onions, eighth of an ounce of mace broken into small pieces, and if not sufficiently salt add a little more; one table spoonful of whole black pepper; boil all together until just enough to fill two bottles; cork it tight.

☞The seasoning may be varied to suit the taste. Allspice instead of mace—common red pepper instead of black pepper, and less chopped onion.

USE OF PLASTER.

Perhaps before this, some of the readers of the Farmer have concluded that the very formidable opposition made to my communication published at page 141, Genesee Farmer, has deterred me from pursuing the subject. Not so,—although when I wrote that article I did not expect again to take up the subject; yet the replies have been so numerous, that I must be permitted once more to appear before the public, and drive the plough-share of reason and common sense through the radical delusion of my opponents.

Facts and proof that plaster injures land are called for by my principal opponent. Facts and proof I will produce, drawn too from the writings of those who advocate the use of plaster.

Col. Hodge, in his reply to my communication, Gen. Far. vol. 2, p. 165, gives what he considers as the reasons why plaster did not do well on my land. It is, however, mere guess-work. I gave the result of one field, and stated that it was the general result. But in endeavoring to make the subject clear, he drops a remark to the very point, which shows that plaster is injurious, viz: "That the large quantity of plaster first sown had exhausted the natural food for vegetables." This is proof positive that plaster injures land. What further proof can be wanting, than that the exhausting effects of plaster destroys the natural food of vegetables?—thus the whole life of the land departs through its baneful effects.

My opponent guessingly inquires whence sprang the sorrel and moss that I mentioned. I will tell him—it sprang not from the corn or plaster, but from the effects of plaster drawing the life from the land; and I would appeal to the good sense of our farmers to say whether they have not noticed, where land has become worn out, that these are the natural productions? Every farmer knows this from experience, and experience is every thing. Now when such facts come under our own observation, all the philosphising in the world cannot convince to the contrary. Nor is this a solitary instance. The man that sows clean seed wheat, and in time of harvest finds one-fourth or a half of it chess, knows for a certain that wheat will turn to chess. The man who critically observes the influence of the moon on the weather, and on vegetation, knows it to be a fact, and all the reasoning, and burlesque, and ridicule of book learned men, who have paid no attention to the subject, cannot convince to the contrary, for it is a truth fully established, that facts are stubborn things.

But my opponents protest against my comparing plaster with ardent spirits, and contend that plaster has no resemblance to ardent spirits. Now I venture to assert, if we search creation round, that nothing can be produced that bears a more striking resemblance than plaster and ardent spirits. Plaster is a stimulant; so is ardent spirits. Plaster does not possess the properties of manure; ardent spirits do not possess the properties of food. Plaster stimulates for a short time, and so does ardent spirits. Plaster leaves the land in a more reduced state than when first applied; ardent spirits leave the man weaker and more feeble than when he first took the stimulant.

I would most respectfully call the attention of those that make use of plaster to the simple fact, *that plaster does not possess the properties of manure.* This fact should lead every reflecting man to doubt the propriety of making use of it. Let me ask, what has led so many thousands in a few years to abandon the use of ardent spirits? Was it not because, on much reflection, it was found not to possess the properties of food? Men have become convinced that it stimulates only for a short time, and then leaves the body weaker than when first taken into the stomach. Men have found by experience that the farmer and mechanic can do more work without it than with it. Was it not for the fact that ardent spirits do not add to the support of mankind, all the reasoning in the world could not have induced so many thousands to give up the use of it. Now this is precisely the case in regard to plaster. For a long time the delusion was so complete, that the great mass of farmers went on, moon

blind, in regard to it. But after a few years their land became unaccountably exhausted—plaster was again and again applied to reanimate them, but in vain; it had little or no effect; and thus it became necessary to search into the real intrinsic merits of plaster, and show some cause why their lands were so completely worn out. The reason soon became apparent, in the fact that plaster is only a stimulant, and does not possess a particle of real food for vegetation. This fact was sufficient, and many abandoned the use of it, and turned their attention to real manures for their lands—the barn-yard was no longer neglected—lime and ashes were sought for; and soon their lands were covered, not with a mere attracting magnet, but a real substantial manure. Look at old Pennsylvania. Instead of the stimulant so freely used there fifteen or twenty years ago, now behold their fertile fields covered with quick lime.

And is it not time that Old Genesee was awake to the subject? Then, instead of stimulating your lands, give it real substantial food—then, instead of your one crop in two years, and your half crop in one year, soon "thousands and tens of thousands of practical farmers" will find to their satisfaction that they have grown rich by abandoning the use of this stimulant.

But I must now leave my principal opponent, and turn to some of his worthy colleagues.

Onondaga, Gen. Far. vol. 2, page 149, tells us how they manage in his county, by putting on from one to three bushels of plaster per acre; and by using so much of the good stuff, they obtain one crop every two years—that is, plough in the clover one year, and take off a crop of wheat the next. Wonder how many "farmers have grown rich by the use of plaster" in his county. I guess less than "10,000."

But I should be inexcusable were I to pass over the profound reasoning of my friend Plough Boy, Gen. Far. p. 156. His theory on the stimulating of a plant until it comes to maturity, and the drink of grog to enable the laborer to complete his job, would be admirable, provided the laborer had no more work to do, and the ground had no more plants to support afterwards; but when we consider that the land, and the vegetable matter contained in it, by this stimulating process, is afterwards exhausted and unable to perform its natural functions, we are led to compare it to the drunkard weakened and debilitated after the stimulating process has subsided. But Plough Boy remarks that "larger crops can be grown *on any land* with plaster than without." Now it is surprising to me that in this land of books and agricultural publications, any one should yet be ignorant of the fact, that plaster does not act as a stimulant when applied to low, wet, mucky or clayey soils.

Agricola, Gen. Far. p. 166, contends that plaster is not a stimulant, [is it a manure, or what is it?] but that it acts by "attracting [like the load stone I suppose] moisture and carbonic acid from the atmosphere." And again, that "all animal and vegetable matter, when decomposed, is thrown into the atmosphere;" and thus plaster, by its attracting powers, draws it back again to the vegetable plants. Now let us for a moment suppose that all vegetable matter, when decomposed, is thrown into the atmosphere, it would follow of course, that the most barren sterile lands, if located near fertile lands, would produce nearly as great abundance of vegetable matter as the richest lands in the vicinity; because, if all vegetable matter when decomposed is thrown into the atmosphere, the air being continually in motion, the greater part of the nourishment in the air would necessarily be driven to a considerable distance from where it was first taken up; and if this theory were true, the most sandy beach, with the application of this stimulating load-stone, would be nearly as good as the most fertile plain; and then "thousands and tens of thousands would grow rich by the use of this stimulant." But the favorite theory of Agricola is turned quite topsy turvy when we consider that all plants receive their nourishment not from the tops, which are exposed to the air, but from the roots in the ground.

But his fourteen acre lot deserves a few remarks. After making a fair calculation, I find that this field, according to his statement, was increased in produce, by the use of plaster, 1600 per cent.! and this not only for one year, but for twelve years at least. Now we are not told where this field is located, but I should guess near that famous birch tree, (Gen. Far. p. 112,) which we are told discharged sixty barrels of sap in one spring.

That plaster produces great effects for a few years I fully acknowledge. I have seen its effects. I have seen a field of corn, where plaster had been applied to the land, that a full grown man standing in the midst of it, and reaching with both hands as high as he could, would be unable to grasp the ears of corn.

Friend Wilbur, (Gen. Far. p. 183,) must receive a single remark. The rise of certain lands from six pence to one hundred dollars per acre, is rather large to be attributed entirely to plaster. That landed property in many parts of our happy and prosperous country has very greatly increased in value no one will deny; but plaster has as little to do with it as snuff or tobacco. Now if W. will divest himself of old prejudices, and abandon his favorite plaster, and look closely to barn-yard and other manures, he may yet find it to his advantage.

But before I close I must briefly notice an article published in the 29th No. of the Farmer, p. 229, exhibiting some experiments on the use of plaster and manures—the result all on the side of plaster. How great the delusion held out by such publications. What! plaster more beneficial than barn-yard manure, compost or lime! But mark, reader, these experiments are for one year only. Let the same field, for the next three years, be planted with corn or potatoes, and I venture to say, for that space of time, the part plastered will not yield more than half as much as the other parts of the field.

And now I ask my opponents, and the "ten thousand practical farmers that have grown rich by the use of plaster," to ponder and reflect upon a few "plain facts." It is a fact that plaster is not a manure—it is a fact that by its application land is sooner exhausted—it is a fact that it draws the niter from the land and kills the life of the land for after crops—it is a fact that land, where plaster has been applied, is sooner affected by drouth, and bakes down hard—it is a fact that land, where plaster has been applied years before, generally becomes so exhausted that grass seed will hardly vegetate—and I hope it is a plain fact, that the plaster mania is subsiding. Good farmers will require something more substantial for their lands than a mere stimulant—others may yet learn by experience.

And now, Mr. Printer, I have done for this time; and will you have the goodness to put this communication on to your big editorial anvil, and hammer it out in proper order and form, so that your readers may be able to understand it, and you will much oblige your old friend,

PLOUGH JOGGER.

CLOVER AND WHEAT.

GENTLEMEN—In the Genesee Farmer of the 27th July I notice two extracts from the Columbia Sentinel, under the signature of A. The ideas of A. appear to me eminently erroneous with regard to clover and wheat. He advises to plough only once, and that after harvest, and when the clover seed is ripe. It appears to me erroneous,

1st. Because the clover can afford little food to the succeeding crop of wheat. Clover and buckwheat, when turned under while green, will, beyond a doubt, keep land in good heart; but it would be in vain to treat exhausted land with green dressing, for it is obvious that neither clover nor buckwheat will grow luxuriantly on such land, and therefore, the crop being small, could yield little nourishment.

2d. He observes that to plough in clover, the ploughing must necessarily be deep. It is well known that seeds buried beyond a certain depth will not vegetate, but remain for years dormant, and never sprout till the land is ploughed again. I have known seed to lie thirty years, which sprouted and grew when brought to the surface of the earth. I believe instead of one ploughing there should be three; the first to turn under the grass and weeds, the second to turn them back again to the surface, but after the second ploughing the sods should not be broken until just before the third ploughing; then put on a harrow; then mix them with the soil, a land or two at a time, and plough them immediately under, otherwise the sun and wind will take away most of the food from the succeeding crop. After ploughing the third time the harrow may go over once, and then sow the seed and drag as fine as you please. I should say three times would not be too much. I fully believe that the best way to stock land to clover is, to sow the clover seed after the last harrowing, and bush it in as near the surface as may be; and that the greener grass, buckwheat, or weeds, can be turned in, the better for the land. These are my ideas on this subject.

I remain yours, R. M. W.

Potter, August 2, 1833.

Rochester Prices Current.

Wheat, per bu.	94	Apples,	40a50
Flour, per bbl.	5 00	Lard, cwt.	8 00
Pork, mess, bbl.	11 00	Cheese do	6a9 00
do prime do	10 00	Butter	12½ 00
Beef per cwt.	3a4 00	Hams do	7a8 50
Oats	31	Pot Ash, cwt.	3 50
Corn	63	Pearls,	3 75a4 00
Rye	75	Hides, cwt.	5 00
Barley	50a56	Sole Leather,	19a22 00
Hay, per ton,	6a7 00	Harness do	25 00
Grass Seed,	1 25	Upper p.side drs'd	2 25
Potatoes,	25a31	Bundle do	3 00a3 50

HORSE RAKE.

In my last communication* I spoke incidentally of the usefulness of the Horse Rake, as an instrument well adapted to the purpose of gleaning wheat fields. What I have farther to say of this instrument, is to enlarge upon the use for which it was specially constructed—that is, for the Raking of Hay; it being a substitute for the hand rake. Although the horse rake has been in partial use here for four or five years, and is extremely well adapted to the purpose for which it was intended, I have often been surprised that it is still so little used by farmers. I can only impute this to the want of knowledge of the excellent manner in which it performs its functions, and to the former slow process that information upon every important branch of Agriculture becomes disseminated. There is no way of doing this so speedily as through the news-papers, and many a useful instrument is neglected because farmers do not publicly communicate what might be extremely useful to their own profession. I venture to say to those who do not know the uses of the Horse Rake, that, if through this paper they only obtain the information that there is such an instrument, and are thus induced to purchase it—if that is the only benefit they obtain for one year's subscription to it, they are amply repaid for the outlay both for the rake and the paper. I speak of the patent revolving hay-rake. The mode of using it, is to attach a horse to it, and the rake following, collects the hay the length of the instrument, which is about ten feet. The horse does not stop to unload or disengage it from the hay, but it makes a half evolution and passes over the hay thus gathered. It will collect it in a much quicker manner than the hand rake, and do the work quite as well. Whenever my hay is fit to house, I start the rake immediately before the hay carts, and one man and horse will gather it much faster than two carts and five or six men can convey it from the field, even if the barn is in the center of it. To say that it is worth as much as the labor of one man, which is equal to a dollar a day, is not giving it credit enough; it does more than this. For besides what it saves in the mere labor by enabling you to gather your hay in a short time, you may, by despatch, in some measure avoid showers, and have the benefit of a long day of sunshine. For large farmers who have clean fields, it is particularly useful; and those who have not yet obtained a rake cannot do better than to purchase one at once, as now is the season for using it, and in the labor and time saved, they will be amply and immediately rewarded.

Farmers, upon subjects of agricultural improvement, are slow of belief; and perhaps this is right, as it prevents imposition. But at the same time we must not permit ourselves to be positive losers, because we do not *choose to believe* in modern improvement. If we are at all attentive to what passes around us, we must be satisfied that it is so, and our observation will tell us that there is room for yet a great deal more. We have only to look back and see what improvements have been made in Agricultural instruments within the last thirty years. For instance, in harvesting: the instrument first used was the Sickle—then a Dutch instrument called the *Seigt*—then the half cradle—and lastly the cradle. See what improvements in the construction of Ploughs, to lessen the draught, while they perform the work more perfectly;—in wagons single and double, for it is not many years since the *wood-shod* sleigh was used here to bring in the harvest. I have seen this in my time, and I do not look very far back. The first wagons made were shod with wood, instead of iron. The Turks still use a very rude plough; it being nothing more than a part of the body of a tree, shaped like a plough, with a limb left behind for a handle, and a cow and an ass yoked for drawing it, and a woman commonly attends as a driver. This we would call primitive farming. It is so. With them farming has not advanced in the lapse of years. They are not susceptible to improvements, as they are wedded to old customs, and think God would be angry were they to farm better than their ancestors. I am sorry to say a few about us have some such notions. Let us cast them aside—march up to the intelligence of the age, and throw mind as well as body into active employment. We were not made, like the ox and the horse, merely for bodily labor. Let the head assist the hands, and our employment will be both more pleasant and profitable.—*Col. Sent.* A.

* See Genesee Farmer, vol. 3, p. 247.

From the Bucks County Intelligencer of 1831.

THE PRACTICAL FARMER—No. 2.

The most eligible time for sowing the seed of Orchard Grass, I am induced to believe, is as early in the spring as the state of the ground will admit; and as clover is the best adapted to the growth of this grass of any with which I am acquainted, they may be advantageously sown together. I have usually sown clover seed at the rate of about four quarts per acre, and afterwards followed with orchard grass with one bushel on the same quantity of ground. This plan has been preferred from a knowledge of the fact, that the latter grass does not generally advance as rapidly as clover, (it not seeding the next season after sowing,) but there is always sufficient of the blades, if the seed takes well, to improve very much the quality of the clover hay. The succeeding season the orchard grass occupies much more space, gradually increasing as the clover declines. The experience of the growers of this grass has shown that the crop improves for at least seven years. Unlike Timothy and Herd, the bulk of this grass consists in the blades, and of course, when the top is cut for seed, the value of the crop for hay is not much lessened, the part usually cradled being of comparatively small value; but after the seed is gathered, it does not, like the grasses just mentioned, become dead and dry, but continues green and in a suitable state for cutting during several weeks. I have this season mown the stubble which had been standing more than four weeks, and the larger part of it furnished hay of a very good quality; on the other hand I have observed several patches of Timothy and Herd that have been cut for seed, the stubble of which would not be worth gathering for any thing but manure.

In sowing the seed of this grass, especial care should be taken to distribute it evenly over the ground, it being light, (weighing but about 15 lbs. per bushel,) and easily acted upon by the winds. On an eight pace land four casts should be sown, the sower scattering seed with every step. But it should not be mixed with clover or any other heavy seed, as the difference in *weight* will vary the extent to which a cast will reach. With respect to the quantity of seed per acre, those who sow with a view of making it the sole object, would probably consult their interest in sowing one and a half or two bushels per acre; but one bushel sown in the manner above mentioned, has been productive of a profitable result, both as respects the improved quality it has imparted to the hay, as well as the seed it has afforded. The appellation of *Orchard* has been given to this grass, from its known congeniality with shade. I have known very luxuriant crops to grow in an orchard, producing three cuttings in a season, although the trees were large, and almost entirely shading the ground; but in such situations it will not produce seed.

The *fertilizing quality* of this grass was formerly mentioned, and it may probably be attributed to the circumstance of its shading the soil more effectually than most other grasses, excepting clover. If a field of it should be kept for mowing, there will be very little time during the warm weather in which the grounds will not be protected from the heat of the sun; and if for pasture, unless it be too heavily stocked, the soil will be shaded by a sufficient covering of this luxuriant grass.

It may be mown for hay at any time best suited for cutting the clover with which it grows; but if it is designed to save the seed, the mowing must be deferred till towards the last of June, at which time the seed will be ripe. This should be cradled before it is ripe enough to waste, bound in small sheaves, and shocked in rows. The stubble may then be mown immediately, or to suit the convenience of the farmer, the seed requiring some exposure to the weather to render it in a suitable state for thrashing.

I subjoin the following analysis, contained in Sir Humphry Davy's Agricultural Chimistry. The quantity of grass from which the estimate is made, grew on a spot of earth contained in four square feet, in a garden attached to Woburn Abbey. The soil was selected, as best adapted to the culture of said grass—a circumstance which may account for the great burden obtained for the estimate per acre.

Dactylis glomerata—Round-headed cocks-foot grass, (or Orchard Grass.)

	lbs. per acre
Grass in flower—rich sandy loam,	27,905
When dry,	11,859
Nutritive matter,	1,089
At the time the seed is ripe, grass,	26,544
When dry,	13,272
Nutritive matter,	1,451
Rowen grass, (or 2d crop,)	11,910
Nutritive matter,	281

This analysis is given as a mere matter of curiosity, as the climate of England, differing so much from this, must make a great difference in the result. The time of the first crop's growing in that climate continues to a period of one month beyond the same growth in this section of the United States; and hence the Rowen or second crop might be expected, (as the result shows,) both inferior in bulk and quality to what it is in this country.

VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.

On a remarkable law of Vegetable Life, and its influence on several operations in Horticulture and Agriculture, by the Rev. Dr. Fleming.

It frequently happens that the results of experience are extensively acted upon by practical men, in reference to particular operations, long before the principle concerned in the arrangement be distinctly recognised, or its application to objects, under other circumstances, be deemed either possible or expedient. The theoretical naturalist frequently receives the first hint of his generalizations from those who have confined their attention to effects merely, and who have marked these even under peculiar confined limits. Yet we must be contented to receive knowledge from every quarter, though in scanty portions, and rejoice in every contribution likely to accelerate the march of improvement.

It is well known, that, in the animal kingdom, all those circumstances which accelerate the growth of the body, exercise a proportional influence on the reproductive system, so that the period of puberty is uniformly earlier in domesticated than in wild animals, and in those which are fed plentifully with food, than in those which are scantily supplied. These effects of an abundant supply of food are exhibited throughout the whole range of the animal kingdom, as far as observation has hitherto extended. The very reverse of this arrangement seems to prevail in the vegetable kingdom. Where plants are furnished with an abundant supply of food, their productive energies develop themselves slowly, and flowers and fruit or seeds are late in appearing. On the other hand, when the supply of nourishment is scanty; when the plant is, as it were, starved, and when death is threatened, the reproductive energies act with readiness, flowers and seeds are produced, and the extinction of the race guarded against; or, in other words, *the scantier the supply of nourishment, the earlier will a plant propagate its kind.* Let us now attend to some of the exhibitions of this law, and their application to useful purposes.

In reference to Seeds, it has been long known to gardeners, that those which are new or fresh produce plants with more luxuriant foliage, and less inclined to run into flower or fruit, than such as have been kept for some time, and are partially spoiled. In the first case, the supply of nourishment, during the early stages of its growth, being in abundance, the plant enlarges rapidly in *size*; while, in the latter case, the scanty supply causes the plant, in obedience to the law which we

have announced, to run more directly to flower and seed. These circumstances are carefully considered in the culture of cucumbers and melons, the seeds of which are seldom employed until several years old. Such indeed is the attention paid to this condition, that we find in books on horticulture the following grave recommendation :—"If new seed only can be had, it should be carried a week or two in the breeches pocket, to dry away some of the more watery parts." A similar attention to this law, in reference to the seeds of other vegetables, is productive of equal benefit. Peas, for example, are well known as apt to run to straw, where the ground is rich or moist. The employment of old is the only suitable remedy. In some newly enclosed *carse lands*, the evil of excessive luxuriance is frequently experienced to an inconvenient degree during two or three years. The straw is great in quantity, but the grain is always deficient. In vain is recourse had to early or thin sowing, while the use of the old seed is neglected. We need not here guard against misconception, by stating in detail, that, where seeds are kept *too long*, they either do not vegetate, or give origin to a weak, sickly, useless plant. Where luxuriance of leaf and great size are the objects aimed at in the cultivation of garden or farm produce, the influence we have been considering must be guarded against as an evil; especially, for example, with turneps and cabbage; old seed producing plants too much disposed to run to flower.

Independent of the influence which this law exercises on the future plant, as the result of the condition of the seed, we have it in our power to witness the operation under other circumstances, in the *growing plant* itself. In the management of *fruit trees*, there are a variety of plans pursued, which, though obviously depending on this *law* of the vegetable kingdom, are frequently but imperfectly understood by the practical gardener. The *transplanting* of fruit trees hastens the production of flower-buds. A tree which for years has shown us tendency to produce flower-buds, but which has been exclusively occupied in the extension of its roots and branches, will, upon being shifted from its place, soon exhibit symptoms of a change. The roots, by this process, have been in part injured, the supply of sap to the tree during the following season has in consequence become diminished, and the plant ceasing in a great measure to extend its size, hastens to propagate its kind by the production of flower-buds, and the subsequent display of blossoms and fruit.

The diminished supply of sap, and the consequent hastening of the production of fruit-buds, is accomplished by several other plans equally efficacious. When a rank growing fruit tree is engrafted on a slow growing stock, or, in other words, when a tree requiring much sap is compelled to receive its supply through a tree having but a scanty supply, the engrafted branch will come earlier into fruit than if it had been always supplied with abundant nourishment. The method of accelerating the production of fruit, and termed *dwarfing*, is particularly serviceable in enabling the cultivators of new varieties to become early acquainted with their respective merits.

When fruit trees are prone to run to wood, gardeners are accustomed to lay bare a portion of their roots during winter. By this exposure many of the fibers are destroyed, and the vigor of all greatly diminished; so that the sap, during the following summer, is transmitted to the branches in less quantity, and the production of fruit buds is the consequence.

Fruit trees, luxuriant in leaves and branches, but bad bearers, are sometimes forced into a productive state, by having portions of the bark removed by the knife, or wires twisted round the stem or branches. In this case, the ascent of the sap is indirectly diminished, by the obstruction of the vessels containing the proper juices, the death of the plant, or portion of the plant, is threatened, and the reproductive organs speedily exercise their functions. The late Dr. Walker, Professor of Natural History, in the University of Edinburgh, who had devoted much time to the investigation of vegetable physiology, intimates, that the effects here produced by barking, or the twisting of wires, have been accomplished by other means. He says, (in the Economical History of the Hebrides, ii. p. 298,) "To some standard fruit trees, *honeysuckles* indeed may be applied with great advantage; these, when even of considerable age, do sometimes continue to run so much to wood, and especially towards the heart of the tree, that it remains quit eunfruitful. To plant a vigorous honeysuckle at the foot of such a tree, is an easy effectual remedy, and much better than any pruning. The honeysuckle grows up, occupies the heart of the tree, checks its luxuriance, directs its vegetation towards the extremeties, and renders it fruitful. A large apple tree of the above description, above fifty years old, and which always had been barren, was rendered by this practice extremely fruitful. When this end is answered, which will happen in a few years, the honeysuckle should then be removed, before it becomes injurious."

In the cultivation of *flowering plants*, a knowledge of this law of vegetable life, and its extensive application may prove of great importance. Sir James Edward Smith, in his introduction to Botany, mentions, that the Solandra grandiflora, a Jamaica shrub, was for a number of years cultivated in the English Stoves, and propagated extensively by cuttings, each plant growing many feet in length every season, from the abundance of moisture and nourishment, without showing any signs of fructification. At length a pot of the Solandra was accidentally left without water in the dry stove at Kew; and, in consequence of this *unintentional* neglect, the luxuriant growth of its branches was greatly checked, and a flower came forth at the extremity of each. By a similar mode of treatment the same effect has since been frequently produced. Indeed, when a law is once properly understood, its application to a variety of cultivated plants, which are slow in showing flower, must be obvious. We have seen it with effect on several species of willows.

In the cultivation of a farm, numerous examples are frequently occurring of the influence of this arrangement in the vegetable economy. The crops growing on the thinnest part of the soil, where the nourishment is consequently in diminished quantity, are always the first to exhibit their flowers, and to be ready for the sickle. In ill managed farms, the harvest is usually much earlier, (other things being equal,) than in those where the crops are under the influence of a better system. We have had an opportunity of witnessing the delay of harvest, upon the application of lime, for example, in consequence of the increased supply of nourishment producing luxuriance of growth rather than early flowering.

In the management of *plantations*, the indications of this law may prove of great value. Wherever we see a tree, in a very young state, exhibiting its flowers, and producing fruit, we may anticipate its early decay. The premature formation of fruit-buds is the consequence of a scanty supply of nourishment, arising, it may be, from the roots having been injured, but generally from the plant having been placed in an unfavorable soil. Fir trees readily indicate their disagreement with the soil by the production of cones, while yet young, and this early fructification is the almost sure forerunner of death. The Balsam Fir, for example, which thrives well on a moist soil, will, if planted on a thin dry soil, begin in a few years to produce cones,—then the bark appears covered with blisters, which, when opened, pour forth a limpid resin, and the tree, after languishing a few years, dies, after, in the course of a dozen of years, having attained the hight of from twelve to twenty feet. In looking at those decorated villas, near a large town, which to the citizen appear so captivating, one may frequently discover the real character of the soil, by this premature flowering of the ornamental shrubbery.

Though plants differ from animals, in reference to this singular law, which we have ventured to establish from an extensive inducton of particulars, they agree, in other respects, in the influence which an abundant supply of nourishment exercises in the increase of the number and size of the progeny.

MANURES.

The difference between the Old and the New Methods of managing Yard Dung.

In the June number of the Farmer, you have published, Mr. Editor, Somerville's directions for managing a dunghill, and have superadded your opinion, that "manure remaining any *considerable time* trodden down in *excess* of wet, is very destructive to its nutritious properties." Although your opinion is guarded with Yankee caution, and may be construed to mean one thing or another, yet it is obviously intended to give a preference to the old over the new system of managing manures, of applying them in a rotted, and not in an unfermented state, to the soil. As this question involves considerations of deep interest to the farmer, I propose briefly to point out the difference, in point of profit, between Robert Somerville's method and that which is recommended by "distinguished agriculturists."

Robert Somerville was a surgeon, and for a time an agricultural editor, in the last century, and died thirty years ago. His system of managing dung was the popular one at his day. His object was to *promote fermentation*, or in other words to hasten the rotting of his dung, ere he considered it fit to apply to the soil. The fact was not then accredited, but has since been amply demonstrated, by science and practice, that in this rotting or fermenting process, dung loses fifty per cent., or one-half, of its fertilizing properties, and that if the process of fermentation takes place, as it readily will, if applied broad cast, in our tillage grounds, during our ordinary summers, this fifty per cent. which is wasted in the yard or stercorary, is retained by and fertilizes the soil. In other words, that a given quantity of dung will enrich a field twice as much, when rotted in the soil, as it will when previously rotted in the yard or stercorary. Hence the study, in *modern* days, has been to *save* this better half of the dung, by keeping back, or retarding fermentation, until it is buried in the soil. Hence the hollow yards, the retention in them of water, and the treading of the mass, by cattle, pigs and poultry, *to keep down the temperature*, and to *prevent the access of air*—heat and moisture being the agents of putrefaction. I verily believe that a mass of manure, accumulated during the winter months, and applied as it should be to the summer hoed crops, is fifteen per cent. better for being trodden in the yard by the cattle, and well saturated with moisture, because these *prevent* fermentation. What it was Somerville's object to *promote*, it it our object to *prevent*. Hence the marked contrast between the old and new method of husbanding the food of our plants. He wished the process of digestion to be conducted above ground, when the atmosphere took the volatile half; we wish this process to go on in the soil, when the volatile half is arrested, and retained for the wants of the crop. It was the old practice, and is yet the practice with many, to boil tea and coffee an hour or two, to make it strong and go farther. Now it is well known that the boiling process dissipates the aroma, and very much of the essential flavor of both. The gasses disengaged in the fermentation of the dung are to the plant what the aroma of tea and coffee are to man.

Mr. Somerville's plan of a dunghill is excellent under the old system, because it saves a *part* of the loss which would otherwise ensue from fermentation; yet it does not save the better—the gaseous part. And the fact should not be concealed, that the greater the mass under the influence of heat and moisture, the more violent the fermentation, and consequently the greater the loss in nutricious matter.

To afford the practical farmer an opportunity of testing the value of the two modes of managing manure, if he has doubts on the subject, I recommend that he casts, say ten loads, next spring, from his barn yard, where it has been trodden on, to half an acre of his corn or potatoe field, spread and plough it in while wet, and take other ten loads to a roofed dung-pile, to undergo the fermenting process during the summer, according to Mr. Somerville's plan; and in September, let him take his ten loads, or the moiety

that remains of it, and apply it to half an acre of wheat, adjoining the corn or potatoes already dunged, and sow the whole acre with wheat. Now I venture to say that the ten loads which have fed his corn or potatoes, and doubled their product, will do as much good to his wheat, nay more, than the ten loads which have lain in the roofed dung-pile, undergoing the digestive process, without fertilizing aught but the atmosphere.—*N. Y. Far.* ONE OF THE NEW SCHOOL.

Pennsylvania, May, 1833.

MESSRS. L. TUCKER & CO.—I transmit you enclosed a letter from Joseph Cooper, formerly a well known practical farmer of New-Jersey,—which has been carefully preserved by my father as containing valuable information. I hope it may be rescued from oblivion by re-publication in your valuable work, the Genesee Farmer.

Your subscriber, H. S.

INTERESTING LETTER.

Important information in Agriculture and Gardening, in a letter from JOSEPH COOPER, *of New-Jersey, to a gentleman in Philadelphia.*

Cooper's Point, 17th April, 1799.

RESPECTED FRIEND—Kind Providence having placed me in a station of life which obliged me to procure a living by industry, and that principally in the agricultural line, it has caused me to be a strict observer of the works of nature, with respect to such parts of the vegetable creation as have come under my particular notice; and have been greatly embarrassed at the opinion very generally entertained by farmers and gardeners, that changing seeds, roots and plants, to distant places, or different soils or climates, is beneficial to agriculture, not agreeing with my observations or practice. This induced me to make many experiments on that head, all of which, in more than forty years practice, have operated to prove to my satisfaction, that the above opinion is not well founded, and if so, must be extremely prejudicial to agriculture, as it turns the attention of the husbandman from what appears to me one great object, viz: that of selecting seeds and roots for planting or sowing, from such vegetables as come to the greatest perfection in the soil which he cultivates.

What induced me to make experiments on that head, was observing that all kinds of vegetables were continually varying in their growth, quality, production and time of maturity. This led me to believe that the great author of nature has so constructed that wonderful machine, if I may be allowed the expression, as to incline every kind of soil and climate to naturalise all kinds of vegetables that it will produce at any rate, the better to to suit them, if the agriculturists will do their part in selecting the most proper seed. In support of which I will take the liberty of subjoining a few facts and experiments, out of an inconceivable number which have all combined to prove the above to my satisfaction.

In or about the year 1746, my father procured the seeds of the long warty squash, which have been kept on the farm ever since without changing, and are now far preferable to what they were at first. Our early peas were procured from London the spring before Braddock's defeat, and have been planted successively every season since on the place. They have not been changed, and are now preferable to what they were when first obtained. The seed of our asparagus was procured from New-York, in the year 1752, since which I have not planted a seed but what grew on my beds, and by selecting the seed from the largest stalks I have improved it greatly.

A complaint is very general, that potatoes of every kind degenerate, at which I am not surprised, when the most proper means to produce that effect is constantly practiced, viz: using or selling the best, and planting the refuse; by which means almost the whole of those planted are the produce of plants the most degenerated. The consideration of which induced me to try an opposite method. Having often observed that some plants or vines produced potatoes larger, better shaped, and in greater abundance than others, without any apparent reason except the operations of nature, it induced me to save a quantity from such only, for planting the ensuing season, and I was highly gratified in finding their production exceed that of others of the same kind, planted at the same time, and with every equal advantage, beyond my expectation, in size, shape and quantity; this induced me to continue the practice, and I am satisfied that I have been fully compensated for all the additional trouble.

A circumstance happened respecting potatoes, which may be worth relating: a woman whom I met in market, requested me to bring half a bushel of sweet potatoes for seed the next market day, which I promised to do; but going through the market on that day, previous to her son's coming for the potatoes, I observed the woman selling such as I had brought for her; when the boy came, I asked him the reason they wanted potatoes for seed, while they were selling their own; his answer was, that his father said if they did not get seed from me once in three or four years, their potatoes would be good for nothing. Query—If he had used the same means in selecting his potatoes for planting as I did, whether he would have profited by changing with one who used the other method.

In discoursing with a friend who lived at a great distance from me, on the above subject, he introduced two instances in favor of changing seed, one was asparagus, the other radish seed, he had from me, the production of both he said was preferable to any thing of the kind ever seen in that neighborhood, which was near one hundred miles distant, to which he ascribed the benefit; but in two or three years the radishes degenerated so as to be no better than what he had before; I asked his method of saving seed, he said he had no other radishes in his garden, and when they had pulled what was fit for use, let the others go to seed. I then told him my method, viz: As soon as radishes are fit for use, I dig up ten or twelve of those which please me best, as to color, shape, &c. and plant them at least 100 yards from where any others bloom at the time they do—this, I informed him, was the best method I knew of to improve any kind of vegetables, varying the process agreeable to their nature; and as he had, in my opinion, taken the most proper method to degenerate his, I asked if he thought I should be benefited by exchanging with him; his answer was, he believed I was the best gardener.

In or about the year 1772, a friend sent me a few grains of a small kind of Indian corn, the grains of which were not larger than goose shot, which he informed me, by a note in which they were enclosed, were originally from Guinea, and produced from eight to ten ears on a stalk. Those grains I planted, and found the production to answer the description, but the ears small, and few of them ripe before frost. I saved some of the largest and earliest, and planted it between rows of larger and earlier kinds of corn, which produced a mixture to advantage; then I saved seed from stalks that produced the greatest number of the largest ears, and first ripe, which I planted the ensuing season, and was not a little gratified to find its production preferable both in quantity and quality to that of any corn I had ever planted. This kind of corn I have continued planting ever since, selecting that designed for seed in the manner I would wish others to try, viz: When the first ears are ripe enough for seed, gather a sufficient quantity for early corn, or replanting, aud at the time yon would wish your corn to be ripe generally, gather a sufficient quantity for planting the next year, having particular care to take it from stalks that are large at bottom, of a regular taper, not over tall, the ears set low, and containing the greatest number of good sizeable ears of the best quality; let it dry speedily, and from the corn gathered as last described, plant your main crop, and if any hills should be missing, replant from the first gathered, which will cause the crop to ripen more regular than is common, which is a great benefit. The above method I have practiced many years, and am satisfied it has increased the quantity and improved the quality of my crops beyond what any person would imagine, who has not tried the experiments. The distance of planting corn, and number of grains in a hill, are matters many differ in; perhaps different soils may require a difference in both these respects, but in every kind of soil I have tried, I find planting the rows six feet asunder each way, as near at right angles as may be, and leaving not more than four stalks in a hill, produce the best crops. The common method of saving seed corn by taking the ears from the heap or crib, is attended with two disadvantages; one is, the taking the largest ears, which generally have grown but one on a stalk—this lessens the production; the other is, taking ears that have ripened at different times, which causes the production to do the same.

A striking instance of plants being naturalised, happened by Colonel Matlack sending some watermelon seed from Georgia, which he informed me by letter were of superior quality: knowing seed from vegetables which had grown in more southern climates, required a longer summer than what grew here, I gave them the most favorable situation, and used glasses to bring them forward, yet very few ripened to perfection; but finding them to be as excellent in quality as described, I saved seed from those first ripe; and by continuing that practice four or five years, they became as early watermelons as I ever had.

Many admit the above errors from foreign flax seed producing the best flax in Ireland; but when it is considered that it is the bark of the stalk only that is used in Ireland, which is in the best perfection before the seed is ripe, and that part not used from any other plant except hemp, the argument falls to the ground when applied to other vegetables.

For many years past, I have renewed the whole seed of my winter grain, from a single plant, which I have observed to be more productive, and of better quality, than the rest, which I am satisfied has been of great use, and I am fully of opinion, that all kinds of garden vegetables may be improved by the foregoing methods, particular care being taken that different kinds of the same species of vegetables are not in bloom at the same time near together, as by that happening they mix, degenerate, and each kind is injured.

I am sensible the foregoing will meet with great opposition and contradiction, but as an experiment is safe and easy, I hope it will induce persons of more leisure, ability, and observation than myself, to make trial as a mean of improving the agriculture of our country, which is the sincere wish of thy friend, JOSEPH COOPER.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREFUL AND SEASONABLE FARMING.

This is a subject that ought to be approached with due consideration. Careful farming is a comprehensive term, and by it we mean that the full and entire fruits of the industrious husbandman, from all his labors shall be most carefully collected and judiciously disposed of. In all his operations, therefore, you see prudence and management. The result is that you see him arise from poverty to affluence—from a state of dependence to independence, both in mind and circumstances—in short, to all the enjoyments which arise from his own hard earned but now ample possessions. His children, too, feel the full benefit of his lessons of prudence and care. They are early taught that their own standing in society and prosperity in future life, will be proportionate to the fidelity with which they follow up the correct principles that have been so assiduously implanted by a careful parent. Such examples cannot be lost upon them, for they are daily witnesses of the success that attends these exertions, and they feel the prosperity which is its sure reward. On the contrary, the careless farmer has a constant succession of losses, for he is devoid both of prudence and management. All his operations, therefore, are imperfectly done—bad as to time, worse as to manner. The results to these two classes of farmers are so essentially different that it is necessary we should give the last a further consideration.

Every operation in farming is a distinct process, and where each is performed in a careless or

slovenly manner, it is a fair deduction from the profits of the farmer. For instance, the careless farmer in the spring, by not preparing his fences as early as practicable, loses time which cannot be regained. He thus hurries through it so that the work is very imperfectly performed, and as his neighbors generally have commenced their spring ploughing and the best farmers nearly completed theirs, he can spend no more time upon them. They must therefore remain unfinished, and his field crops run the chance to be saved. It is already late, but he commences ploughing when he sees others sowing their grain. His horses and oxen, having been neglected, are not in the best condition for hard work. In his zeal to gain lost time, he over-drives them and two or more become unfit for business from over-exertion. This he calls bad luck, for he cannot think to impute it to a want of foresight. He must now, however, wait until all his neighbors have finished their sowing, and then depend upon their sympathy for aid. He obtains it. As the season is far advanced, his chance is for a light crop, but this is not now to be remedied. His corn ground is to be ploughed; he begins under bad auspices, but by begging of one and borrowing of another, he contrives to get through with that. From his light team, however, we must infer, and rightly too, that it has been badly done. By this time he observes that the best farmers have already finished their planting, and are preparing to give their corn ground a weeding. He follows them as fast as circumstances will allow —the first and subsequent weedings are therefore performed so late that the crop does not receive the full benefit of the process, and when he thinks of giving it a last dressing, his neighbors are preparing for the harvest. Consequently he hurries through it, but he has no time to give his potatoes another ploughing which they very much require; for he must begin his harvest as it is already too ripe to gather without waste. Situated thus, he pushes through this as fast as practicable, but as harvesting to be well done requires time, he loses much of his grain because it is cut too late, and more from the hurried manner in which it is performed. His harvest field is therefore strewed with it, and when others more careful are reaping their twenty bushels per acre, he must be content with ten, or less. The next operation is the making of hay—here too he is later than he ought to be, and as his implements are never such exactly as they should be to do clean work, although he works harder than every one else, yet the grass not being cut first in season, and next close to the ground, he meets with another and heavy loss. The quantity gathered is therefore small, and it is only by half feeding the succeeding winter that he can keep his stock through it. The effect of this we have already seen in his last spring's operations; the same bad process is again to be gone through with the same, but rather a worse result.

If by this management, or rather the want of it, he loses occasionally an animal, it is put to his bad luck. He can easily foresee how his crops while growing must fare, from his miserably repaired fences; for besides his own, his neighbor's cattle will be depasturing them. From his poor fences they are soon taught that they are no hindrances to confinement in particular lots; they roam, therefore, at large, depredating on his own, and soon on his neighbor's crops.

The last, however, cannot be permitted with impunity, and he is amersed in dangers which a little foresight and care might easily have prevented. But these are only the first consequences, for every thing leads to waste, and from bad fences, bad crops necessarily follow. It is useless to follow this man further—his course sooner or later must end in bankruptcy, as his debts will accumulate, and he has no means with which to discharge them. Neither ought his example to be lost to society—let him stand as a beacon to warn others of the dangerous consequences that follow thriftless labor. We may draw this farther lesson from it; that what is commonly called bad luck, is more commonly the effect of want of little care and prudent foresight.—*Columbia Sentinel.* A.

COBS OF INDIAN CORN.

Mr. Fessenden—Are corn-cobs most profitable for manure or fuel, when hard wood is three dollars a cord?

If you will have the goodness to communicate your opinion on the subject through the medium of your useful paper, the New-England Farmer, you will greatly oblige A YOUNG FARMER.

By the Editor.—We are not able to say whether corn-cobs would be most valuable for manure or fuel, but believe the latter, as it requires a long time to rot, or decompose them in such a manner that they would be useful as manure.

But we believe the best use to which corn-cobs can be applied, is to grind them together with the corn, and give the mixture to swine, or other domestic animals, which it is wished to fatten. The following extracts from a letter from the Rev. H. C. Perley, of New Rowley, Mass., to the Editor, may serve to explain and corroborate this assertion.

"I had corn and cobs ground together; and I put about a peck of corn to a bushel of cobs. Meal made of this composition I scalded, and made about as thick as hasty pudding; or mixed about one peck of meal with three pecks of boiled potatoes, thickened to the consistency of pudding. With this kind of food, and what wash was made in the family, I constantly feed my swine; there were none in the neighborhood grew so fast, or were fit to kill so early in autumn. * * * * * *

"I have also made further discovery of the use of cob meal, for other purposes besides feeding swine and cattle. I had one batch of coarse brown bread made of it, ground about half and half; sifted as usual, and the application of the usual quantity of rye meal. The bread was as high seasoned, as light, as sweet and as moist, as that made of pure Indian and rye meal; though I think it will dry rather sooner."

In the *Massachusetts Agricultural Repository* for January, 1823, is a communication from Asa Rice, Jr. of Shrewsbury, in which the writer observes as follows: "The kind of meal I have used for seven years past, almost exclusively, for provender, is corn and cobs cracked and ground together, which is the best provender I ever made for fattening cattle. The reason I consider the cob useful is, it swells in the creature, and keeps him in good order. In no one instance since I have fed with this meal have my cattle been out of order by being cloyed, or scouring; they are at all times regular; but when I formerly fed with clear Indian meal, it was not unfrequent that their bowels would get out of order, and I have had considerable difficulty in regulating them again; they lost two or three days, sometimes a week. When this kind of provender was first introduced in this vicinity, it had its opposition like almost all new things. The second year, if I mistake not, which I made use of it, I thought I would try an experiment as follows, by feeding one ox with corn and oats ground, the other with corn and cobs, having a yoke of oxen so even matched that no one who viewed the cattle appeared satisfied which was best: accordingly I fed them as above. The cob is computed to make a little more than one third, therefore I mixed the other with one third oats, which was my former mode. I gave each ox an equal quantity at a time, except the one which had corn and oats some days became dainty, and would not eat his allowance, while the other kept his regular course. The allowance for both was a little over three pecks per day. When I took the cattle to market, Mr. A. White bought them; they weighed about twenty-eight hundred and a half. The one fed on corn and oats had 162 lbs. of tallow, and weighed about half a hundred more. The one fed on corn and cobs had 163 lbs. of tallow, and Mr. White pronounced his beef half a dollar on the hundred better than that of the other, mostly on account of the *color of the beef.*"

The third volume of the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society likewise contains an article on grinding Indian corn in the cob, as food for cattle, &c. by Dr. Mease, of Philadelphia. Mills, for the purpose of grinding corn and cobs together, have been erected in Andover, Danvers, and, we believe, other places in Massachusetts. Perhaps a large mortar, with a mallet or pestle, might answer for cracking corn and cobs, and pulverise them sufficiently for cattle food.—*New England Farmer.*

STATISTICS OF CONNECTICUT FOR THE YEAR 1832.—The following is a brief abstract of the various subjects of taxation, as returned by the Assessors, for March, 1832:—

42,852	Dwelling-houses, val'd at	$21,948,740
5,622,676	Acres of Land	50,782,455
1,572	Mills	843,511
1,826	Stores	146,748
283	Distilleries	54,052
1,521	Manufactories	1,637,149
25	Quarries	38,350
183	Fisheries	98,625
1	Ferry	200
34,250	Horses, &c.	1,290,694
237,989	Neat Cattle	3,347,667
271,625	Sheep	333,657
	Silver Plate	10,614
5,196	Riding Carriages	238,797
22,893	Clocks and Watches	174,843
	Bank Stocks, State Banks	3,143,736
	Do. U. S. Bank	17,880
	Insurance Stock	53,642
	Turnpike do	157,362
	Money at Interest	2,087,676
	Three folds	17,679
	Assessments	147,583
	Polls	689,315
		$88,592,388

The whole capital of the School Fund, productive and unproductive, was reported by the Commissioners in 1832, to be $1,902,957 87.

SILK MANUFACTURE.—One of the most gratifying exhibitions we ever witnessed is that of the silk-worm in all its stages, with the mulberry-leaves, eggs, cocoons, chrysalis, miller, &c. together with a complete domestic process of manufacture, which may be seen at the Agricultural Warehouse North Market st. The machine which is there in motion was invented last winter by Mr. Adam Brooks of Scituate, Massachusetts, and a patent of it, which we have seen, was issued on the late 29th of June.—It is an improvement, as it seems to us, of vast importance; for unlike the Piedmontese Wheel, heretofore chiefly used, which only performed the reeling process, *it combines the reeling and twisting:* and the saving of labor is such in consequence that 150 skeins can be made in a day by one woman and a little girl to turn this improved wheel as easily as 40 can by the old. This we learn from those who have tried both. One of the new machines is used in Connecticut, and another in New York, besides those in the family of the ingenious inventor, who now devote their time in a great measure to this business.

Mr. B. is one of the Society of Friends.—His wife who superintends the wheel, and has paid some attention to silk-making for several years, had made frequent complaints of the labor lost by the old machine. Her husband doubted the practicability of amending it, and told her so in plain terms; but went to thinking, it seems, and in about three weeks produced this capital improvement. Mrs. B. says it was formerly a very hard day's work to make 30 skeins; she can now make 100 in ordinary hours. The silk is beautiful, as smooth as the Italian itself, and stronger than that. We challenge the strongest fingered editor in the city to break a thread of it. If he succeeds he shall have one of the silk handkerchiefs we engaged last week, socks and all. Specimens may be seen at the rooms.—*Boston Journal.*

THE GARDEN.

LANSINGBURGH—DECEMBER.

A little book is kept for extracts and occasional remarks, designated the Horticultural Garden, or Boquet of Useful and Amusing Trifles, principally relative to the garden, from which book the following articles are taken. A. W.

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One of the most interesting spectacles ever witnessed in the garden at this dreary season, (when Nature has stripped vegetation of its glories, and consigned her lovely offspring to their season's repose,) was noticed the early part of this month. A light fall of snow had been suddenly melted by the power of the sun's rays, while the thermometer was below the point of freezing. The consequence of this conflict between the two contending powers of heat and cold was, that the whole remains of the vegetable tribe were suddenly converted into a mass of shining crystalization. Every tree, every shrub, and every ornamental fixture, were all in the space of a few hours completely enveloped in an icy coat of mail, of the most dazzling transparency, which during two days defied the powers of the solar beams.

A group of weeping trees particularly attracted attention; while gazing on their pendent slender branches loaded with the purest icicles, the imagination was led to the classic recollection of the weeping deities, whom Ovid described as being converted into trees, and their tears into amber. They might indeed be called the tears of nature on the stern appearance of winter; and yet as the sunbeams elegantly danced among the branches, reflected from every spray, she seemed to be smiling through her tears. The three-thorned locust exhibited its spikes in dazzling array. The crimson fruit of the barberry appeared like a cornelian enclosed in a diamond. The black berry of the prim, the delicate snowberry, and the large roan tree berries, were peculiarly beautiful, while the humble box and the modest wintergreen had their color heightened by their case of crystal, more than equaling them in beauty. But how soon, how very soon, are these frail fabrics seen to melt away, and involve in their desolation so many gems.

The garden scene so lovely induced a stroll to a neighboring forest. There all was found chilling and unearthly: nature had dressed the whole woods as if for her own amusement—all was awfully grand and impressive. The idea occurred that the whole surface of the earth had been deadened by the paralyzing touch of winter. In the attempt to explore the woods the progress was slow through the brushwood—the branches neither yielding nor resisting, but snapping asunder on a moderate pressure, scattering fragments of crystal in all directions.

What a grand subject for the pencil! Every object around had received its portion of decoration. The fences and stones were tastefully festooned and fringed, assuming a very picturesque appearance. Such a scene as this induces the reflection, that if winter has its horrors, it has its beauties too:

"Let Winter come with stormy voice,
Let snow-wreaths crown the highest hill;
He bids thee in the storm rejoice,
He sees, protects, and feeds thee still."

New England Farmer.

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A GARDEN OF BIJOUS.

BY FLORA BRUMAL.

Conversing a few days since with a friend who is an enthusiastic admirer of nature in general, and of a garden in particular, I was struck with his description of the effect produced in his own garden on a night comparatively mild and humid, succeeding a day of snow, sunshine and frost. His outline of a picture pleased my fancy, and in an hour of idleness I have endeavored to record the pleasing impression produced upon my imagination by the scenes he described.

Accompany me then in a fancied ramble through an Hyperborean garden, and instead of the desolate wilderness of yesterday, you will find every branch, every tendril, pendent with precious looking gems, from the pale diamond to the deeply blushing ruby; and all in vegetable form, leaf, branch, bud and flower.

The place of the rose, usurped by its own encrusted berry, furnished us with the semi-transparent cornelian, while the fair Missouri snow-drop, (escaped from the general wreck of all that is beautiful,) in its new crystal envelop, gives us the faint hue of the sapphire.

There too you will find the noble and capricious opal, sheltered, yet illuminated, by the thousand hanging prisms which play around it, giving all the variety and fabled succession of colors attributed to that gem. Nor is the relief of foliage wanting in this parterre of brilliants, since every leaf of the perennial box and laurel forms an emerald of exquisite and indescribable beauty.

Let us penetrate every nook and alley of this enchanted garden, where every thing above, around, beneath, is fantastical, rich and elegant. The paths are embossed with pebbles of nameless hue, the mountain ash, with its broad sheets of scarlet berries, yielding a perfect imitation of masses of coral.

The stately fir, in its clear, cold vestment, presents itself as a tree of the aqua marina, or sea-green beryl. Music and motion, too, lend their aid to complete the illusion: every breath of heaven, agitating the heavy laden branches, teems with the sweet sounds of silver bells, scattering millions of adamantine drops on the paths before us.

Sometimes our progress is obstructed by long wavy wreaths, that fear no enemy but warmth. Now may we gather for our friends boquets of clustering rubies from the sanguine berries of the nightshade.

Well might the sublime author of the Seasons exclaim—

"Nature, great Parent, whose unceasing hand
Rolls round the season of the changeful year,
How mighty, how majestic are thy works!
With what a pleasing awe they swell the soul
That sees astonished, and astonished sings."

Yonder hangs a solitary egg-plumb, which, in spite of sun, shower and storm, has hung tenaciously to its native bough, now filled, encased, and transformed by an irresistible element, it may vie with the famous Brazilian diamond of the house of Braganza.

A little further a bunch of withered purple grapes, swelled into rotundity, and burnished by the same all-pervading genius, boldly represents the glowing amethyst, which a Plutarch tells us has its name from its color, and is "wine mixed with water."

And can we leave this enchanting scene without gleaning some lesson of instruction? Is it not truly and delightfully said—

"There are tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing."

May we not compare the few lingering relics of the garden, which have escaped the efforts of the burning sun and the severity of the winter's blast, to the remains of virtuous principle, which neither the warmth of prosperity nor the chill of adversity have been able to destroy.

If then even the caprices of nature yield us a useful lesson, how inexcusable are those who have neither an ear nor an eye for its constant admonitions, who suffer the most extensive and the only gratuitous library of useful knowledge to remain unread. Shall I venture to call it that splendid annual, published by its mighty author for nearly six thousand years, every page of which furnishes an inimitable picture of human life, and every line of which presents us an idea and a moral.

The study of nature leads to nature's God. The most ambitious literary aspirant can reach no higher.—*American Gardener's Magazine.*

EARLY RISING.

Dr. Johnson said that no man ever rose to eminence in any calling, or got rich, who lay in bed after five o'clock in the morning.

MY COMMON PLACE BOOK—No. IV.

Follow truth and liberty will follow you.—*Arabian Maxims.*

Gratitude perpetuates benefits.—*ibid.*

Integrity is a great and commendable virtue. A man of integrity is a true man, a bold man, and a steady man; he is to be trusted and relied upon. No bribes can corrupt him, no fear daunt him; his word is slow in coming, but sure. He shines brighest in the fire, and his friend hears of him most, when he most needs him. His courage grows with danger, and conquers opposition by constancy.—*Wm. Penn.*

Be not morose or conceited; one is rude, the other is troublesome and nauseous.—*ibid.*

Inquisitive people are the funnels of conversation; they do not take in any thing for their own use, but merely to pass it to another.—*Anonymous.*

The constitution of a versatile and undecided character proceeds entirely from that intellectual weakness which prevents the mind from thinking for itself. Such characters consult upon every occasion the oracles of public opinion, so infallible in their ideas, before they know what they ought to think, or in what manner their judgment should be formed, or their conduct regulated.—*Zimmerman.*

How unhappy should we be if Divine Providence were to grant us every thing we desire.—*ibid.*

RECEIPTS

FOR DIFFERENT KINDS OF CAKE.

A very good and common Cake.—Rub eight ounces of butter into two pounds of dried flour, mix it with three spoonfuls of yeast that is not bitter, to a paste. Let it rise an hour and a half; then mix in the yolks and whites of six eggs beaten apart; one pound of sugar, some milk to make it a proper thickness, (about a pint will be sufficient,) a glass of sweet wine, the rind of a lemon, and a teaspoonful of ginger. Add either a pound and a half of currants, or some carraway, and beat well.

A Cheap Seed Cake.—Mix a quarter of a peck of flour with half a pund of sugar, a quarter of an ounce of allspice, and a little ginger; melt three quarters of a pound of butter with half a pint of milk; when just warm, put to it a quarter of a pint of yeast, and work up to a good dough. Let it stand before the fire a few minutes before it goes to the oven; add seeds or currants, and bake an hour and a half.

Another.—Mix a pound and a half of flour, and a pound of common lump sugar, eight eggs beaten separately, and an ounce of seeds, two spoonfuls of yeast, and the same of milk and water.

Note.—Milk alone causes cake and bread soon to dry.

Election Cake.—Four pounds of flour, three quarters of a pound of butter, four eggs, one pound of sugar, half a pint of good yeast, wet it with milk as soft as it can be and be molded on a board. Set it to rise over night in winter, in warm weather three hours is usually enough for it to rise; a loaf the size of a common flour bread should bake three quarters of an hour.

Cup Cake.—One cup of butter, two cups of sugar, three flour and four eggs well beat together, baked in pans or cups. Bake twenty minutes and no more.

Composition Cake.—One pound of flour, one of sugar, half a pound of butter, seven eggs, half a pint of cream, and a gill of cider.

Tea Cake.—Three cups of sugar, three eggs, one cup of butter, one cup of milk, a small lump of pearlash, and make it not quite so stiff as pound cake.

Loaf Cake.—Five pounds of flour, two of sugar, three quarters of a pound of lard, and the same quantity of butter, one pint of yeast, eight eggs, one quart of milk; roll the sugar in the flour; add the raisins and spice after the first rising.

Pint Cake.—One pint of dough, one tea cup of sugar, one of butter, three eggs, one tea-spoonful of pearlash, with raisins and spices.